

Environmental Assessment

HENNEBERRY FISHING ACCESS SITE WALK-IN PARKING LOT DEVELOPMENT

October 7, 2004

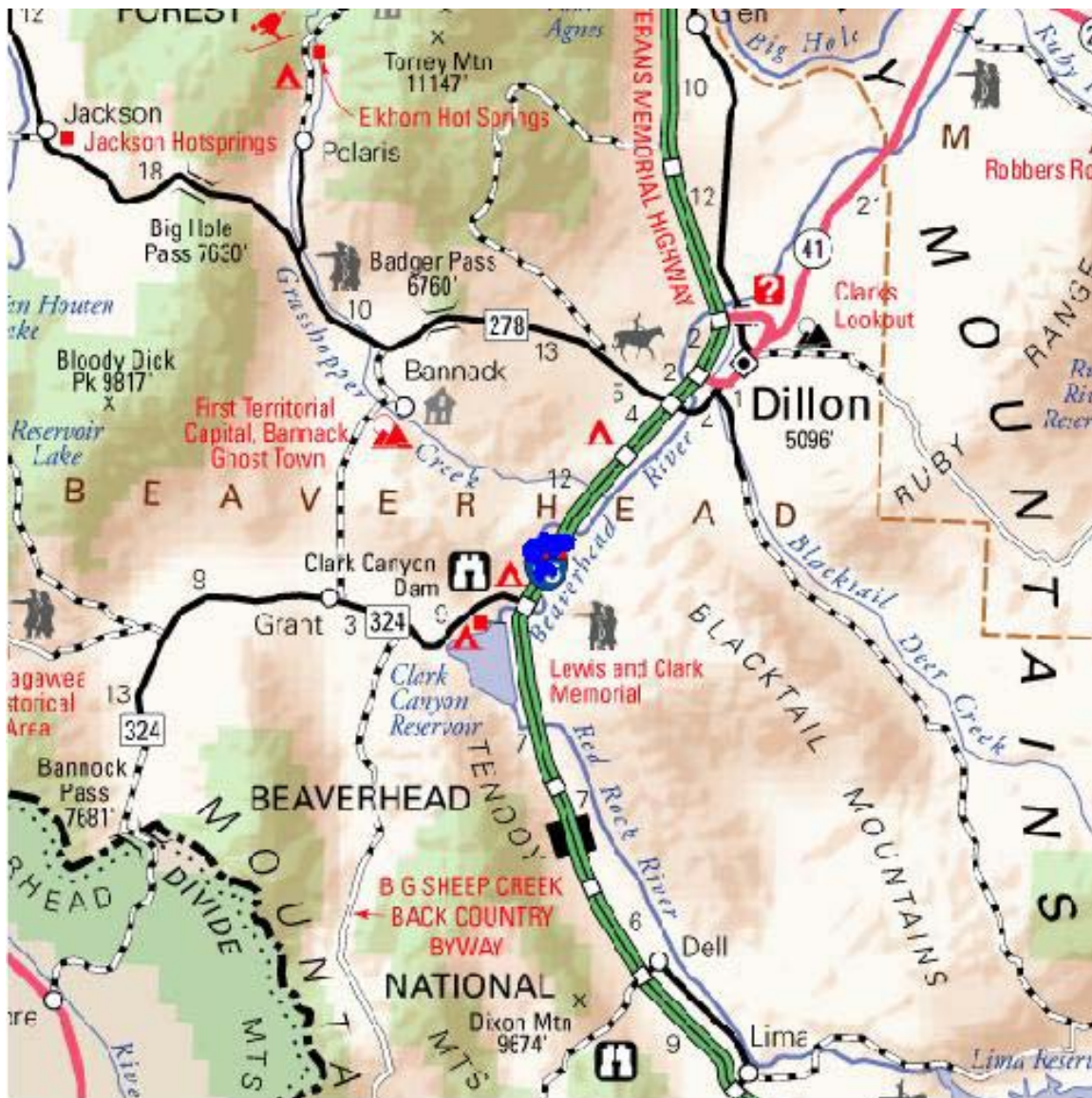


***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Henneberry Fishing Access Site Draft Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to improve the south parcel of Henneberry Fishing Access Site (FAS) by providing parking lots for up to 8 vehicles at each of the two walk-in sites. Signing and barrier work would also be a necessary part of the project.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605 MCA, which directs Fish, Wildlife & Parks to acquire, develop and operate a system of fishing accesses. The legislature established a funding account to ensure that this function would be accomplished. Sections 12-8-213, 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 15-1-122, 61-3-321, and 87-1-303, MCA, authorize the collection fees and charges for the use of state park system units and fishing access sites, and contain rule-making authority for their use, occupancy and protection. The opportunity for public involvement regarding the proposed park project is provided under MCA 23-1-110.
3. **Name of project:** Henneberry FAS Walk-In Parking Lot Development
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):**
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is the project sponsor.
5. **If applicable:**
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Fall 2004
Estimated Completion Date: Summer 2005
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 50
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):** Henneberry FAS can be reached by traveling 14 miles south on I-15 from Dillon, accessing the frontage/recreation road and traveling another 2 miles south. The proposed project would affect the two walk-in sites located along the recreation road on the south parcel of Henneberry FAS. The site is in Beaverhead County, Montana, Township 9 South, Range 10 West, Section 21.



General site location map. Henneberry Fishing Access Site indicated by fish symbol.

7. Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u> 2 </u>
Residential	<u> 0 </u>	(e) Productive:	
Industrial	<u> 0 </u>	Irrigated cropland	<u> 0 </u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u> 0 </u>	Dry cropland	<u> 0 </u>
		Forestry	<u> 0 </u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u> 0 </u>	Rangeland	<u> 0 </u>
		Other	<u> 0 </u>

8. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) **Permits:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Montana Department of Transportation	Approach Permit

(b) **Funding:**

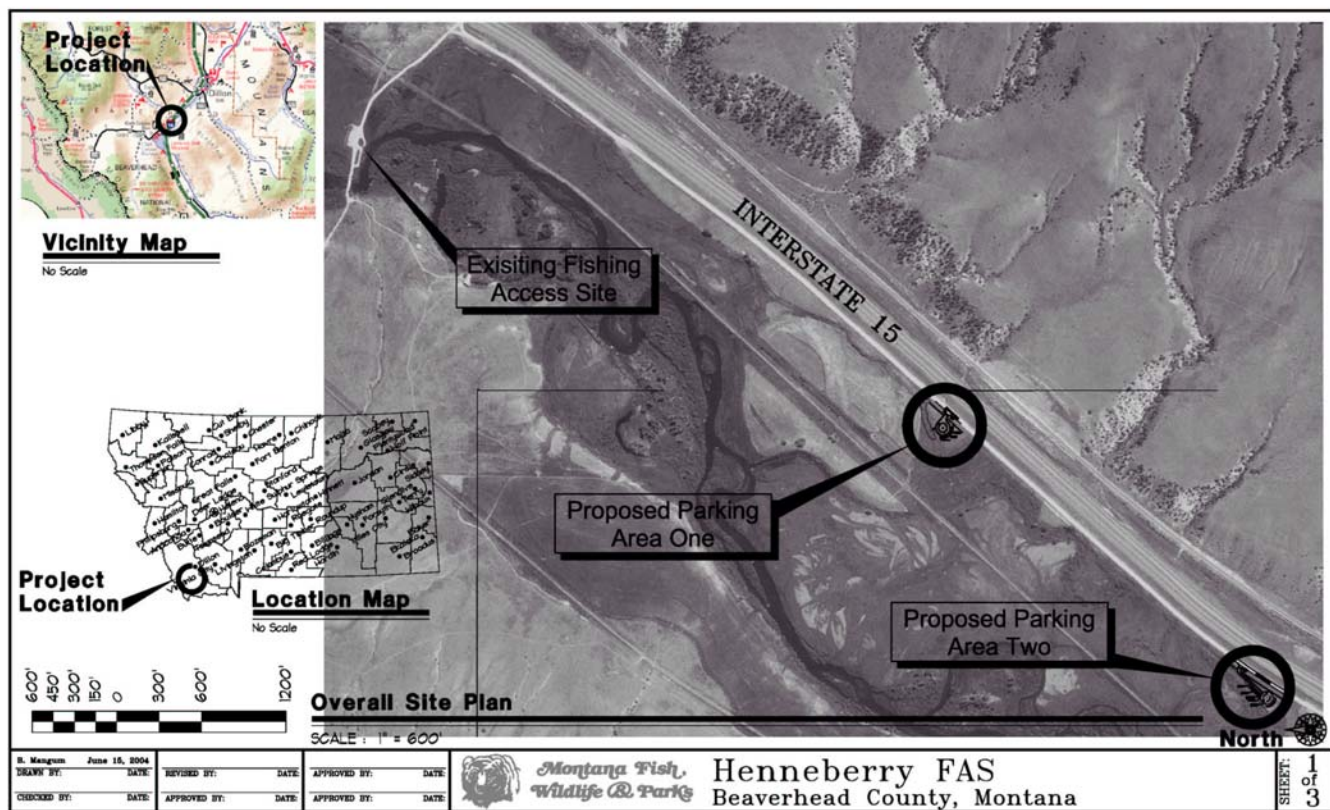
<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$15,000

(c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

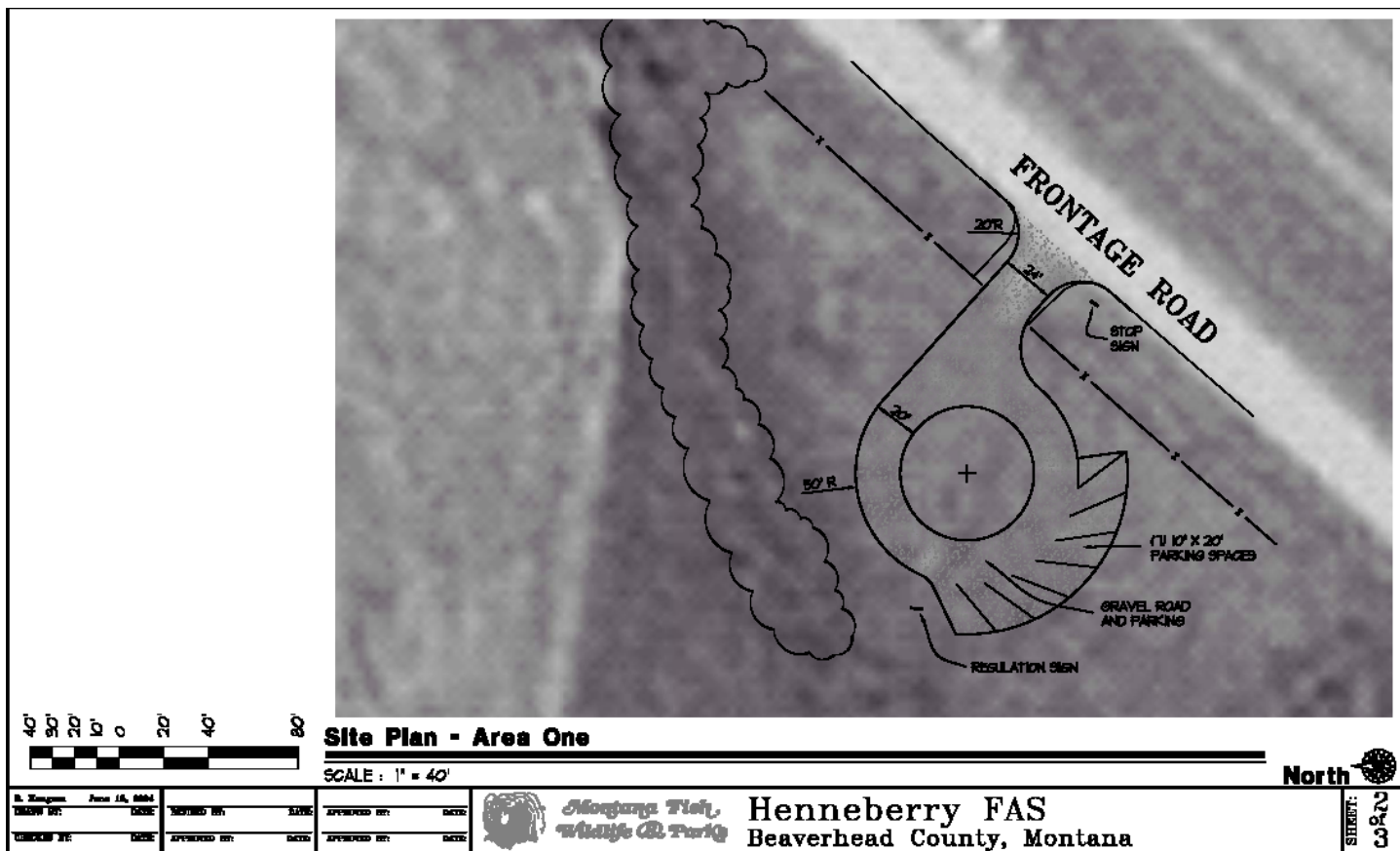
<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
N/A	

9. **Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:** This proposed project would provide two constructed parking lots for up to 8 vehicles each for the south parcel of Henneberry FAS. These new lots would furnish walk-in anglers and waterfowl hunters a developed, easily accessible, level, and safe place to park at two different locations along the recreation road, which fronts the site on the east boundary. Currently, site users who wish to access the Beaverhead River from the recreation road have to park on the road right-of-way (ROW) and then walk in through FWP gates. The ROW is steeply angled and causes vehicles to spin out when leaving. Safety issues are also a concern, especially if users park on the road shoulder. The construction of these two lots would allow users to get down off the road on level ground and park in a safe manner. It would also enable a vehicle to gain momentum before climbing the grade onto the recreation road.

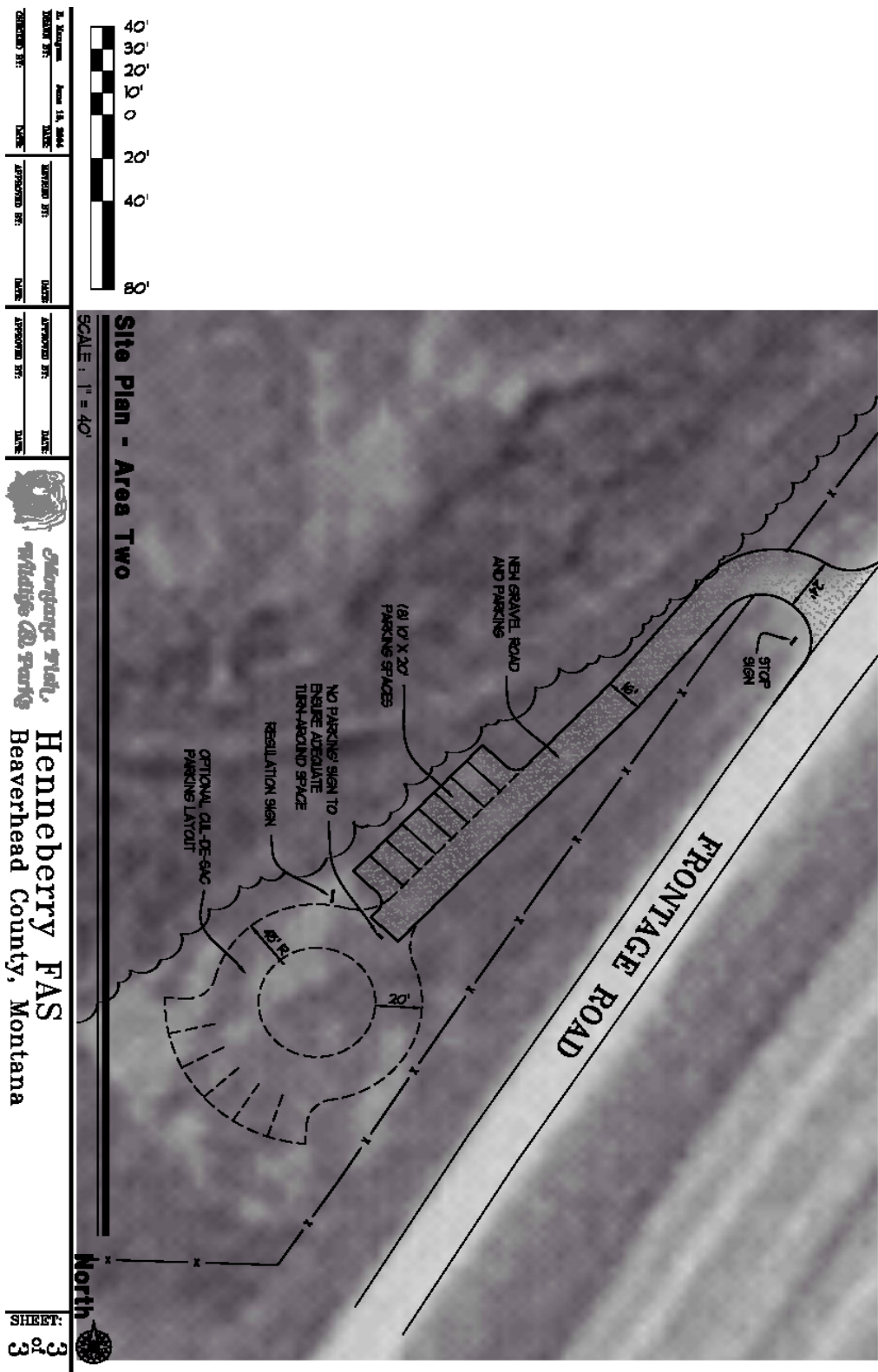
(NOTE: Included maps, site plans showing location, and boundaries here and/or under #6 above.)



Overall Henneberry FAS site plan.



Henneberry FAS site plan area one.



Henneberry FAS site plan area two.

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Henneberry FAS Parking Improvements

Region Three

By: B. Mangum

Date:

7/27/2004

File No.

Parking Area One

Item	Estimated Quantity	Unit Measure	Unit Price	Item Total
Mobilization				
Equipment Mobilization	Lump Sum		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Establishment of BMP's	Lump Sum		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
Site Protection				
New Security Gate	0	Each	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Barrier Rocks	40	Each	\$50.00	\$2,000.00
Highway Approach Signs	0	Each	\$500.00	\$0.00
Double Sided Entrance Sign	1	Each	\$750.00	\$750.00
Regulation Sign	1	Each	\$750.00	\$750.00
Single Pole Parking Signs	3	Each	\$200.00	\$600.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
Parking Development				
Clearing and Grubbing	175	Cu. Yd.	\$5.00	\$875.00
Unclassified Excavation and Embankment	0	Cu. Yd.	\$8.00	\$0.00
Soil Sterilization	9663	Sq. Ft.	\$0.25	\$2,415.75
Supply and Install Imported Fill Material	100	Cu. Yd.	\$12.00	\$1,200.00
Supply and Install 4"(-) Pit Run (6" Lift)	175	Cu. Yd.	\$16.00	\$2,800.00
Supply and Install 3/4"(-) Crushed Surface (4" Lift)	120	Cu. Yd.	\$25.00	\$3,000.00
Reclamation of Disturbed Topsoil and Vegetation	Lump Sum		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
	Construction Cost Subtotal			\$15,890.75
Contingency	15% Total Construction Cost			\$2,383.61
	Total Cost Estimate			\$18,274.36

Parking Area Two

Item	Estimated Quantity	Unit Measure	Unit Price	Item Total
Mobilization				
Equipment Mobilization	Lump Sum		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Establishment of BMP's	Lump Sum		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
Site Protection				
New Security Gate	0	Each	\$1,500.00	\$0.00

Barrier Rocks	14	Each	\$50.00	\$700.00
Highway Approach Signs	0	Each	\$500.00	\$0.00
Double Sided Entrance Sign	1	Each	\$750.00	\$750.00
Regulation Sign	1	Each	\$750.00	\$750.00
Single Pole Parking Signs	3	Each	\$200.00	\$600.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
Parking Development				
Clearing and Grubbing	120	Cu. Yd.	\$5.00	\$600.00
Unclassified Excavation and Embankment	0	Cu. Yd.	\$8.00	\$0.00
Soil Sterilization	6481	Sq. Ft.	\$0.25	\$1,620.25
Supply and Install Imported Fill Material	110	Cu. Yd.	\$12.00	\$1,320.00
Supply and Install Geotextile Fabric	720	Sq. Yd.	\$1.00	\$720.00
Supply and Install 4"(-) Pit Run (6" Lift)	120	Cu. Yd.	\$16.00	\$1,920.00
Supply and Install 3/4"(-) Crushed Surface (4" Lift)	80	Cu. Yd.	\$25.00	\$2,000.00
Reclamation of Disturbed Topsoil and Vegetation	Lump Sum		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
	Construction Cost Subtotal			\$12,480.25
Contingency	15% Total Construction Cost			\$1,872.04
Total Cost Estimate				\$14,352.29

Parking Area Two (Additional Cost for Cul-de-Sac Option)

Item	Estimated Quantity	Unit Measure	Unit Price	Item Total
Additional Parking Development				
Clearing and Grubbing	85	Cu. Yd.	\$5.00	\$425.00
Unclassified Excavation and Embankment	0	Cu. Yd.	\$8.00	\$0.00
Soil Sterilization	4614	Sq. Ft.	\$0.25	\$1,153.50
Supply and Install Imported Fill Material	0	Cu. Yd.	\$12.00	\$0.00
Supply and Install Geotextile Fabric	513	Sq. Yd.	\$1.00	\$513.00
Supply and Install 4"(-) Pit Run (6" Lift)	85	Cu. Yd.	\$16.00	\$1,360.00
Supply and Install 3/4"(-) Crushed Surface (4" Lift)	60	Cu. Yd.	\$25.00	\$1,500.00
Reclamation of Disturbed Topsoil and Vegetation	Lump Sum		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
	Construction Cost Subtotal			\$6,451.50
Contingency	15% Total Construction Cost			\$967.73
Total Cost Estimate				\$7,419.23

Total Cost Estimate	\$40,045.88
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PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- 1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

Alternative A: No Action

Parking at the two walk-in sites on the south parcel of Henneberry FAS is unimproved. Anglers and hunters will continue to park parallel to the recreation road on the shoulder, creating traffic hazards, or park on the steeply angled slope next to the access gate, spinning out in wet and muddy conditions, creating gullies and erosion. Those users who wish to park in an improved lot will use the north parcel of Henneberry FAS, further straining that highly used facility and that section of river.

Alternative B:

Provide only one vehicle parking area instead of two. This alternative would be less costly and it would eliminate some parking along the recreation road. However, people using the undeveloped area would still be forced to either park along the county road or drive off the steep embankment. In addition, having one of the sites developed and one left undeveloped might concentrate use onto the developed site, which is not desired by FWP.

Preferred Alternative C: Proposed Action

Note: a detailed evaluation of the Proposed Action is included in Part VI. Environmental Review Checklist beginning on page 6.

The proposed project would provide safe and level parking for anglers and hunters who use the south parcel of Henneberry FAS. In addition, improved parking for the two walk-in sites will ease some of the pressure off the north parcel of Henneberry FAS, of which approximately 18% of the parties who float the upper Beaverhead use as their put-in point, and 35% use as their take-out point. Some of the hunters and anglers who don't use boats will likely begin using the walk-in sites instead of the north parcel of Henneberry.

Alternative D: High Level of Development

A high level of development at this site would consist of paving the parking areas and building a vault latrine at each site. The level of use at these sites does not currently warrant this type of development.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The site improvements are designed following best management practices. FWP engineering staff would oversee the completion of the project to ensure construction meets state specifications, such as limiting soil and vegetation disturbance to the immediate project area, and seeding disturbed areas to aid in reclamation.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

This analysis did not reveal any significant impacts to the human or physical environment.

The project has been designed to keep development to a minimum while providing safe access to fishing sites, which provide recreational opportunities desired by the public. The Beaverhead River supports approximately 20,000 angler days a year and Henneberry FAS is one of the most heavily used access sites along the river. The two walk-in sites this project would affect would give anglers and hunters without boats an opportunity to reach the river but avoid the congestion of those sites with boat ramps. FWP wants to provide the same level of safety and access to these users as it provides to those who use the improved North Henneberry FAS and other improved FAS's along the Beaverhead River.

The proposed project will create a more aesthetic look to the two walk-in sites and improve safety for both those who are parking at the sites and drivers on the recreation road. As the size of the parking lots will be limited to 8 vehicles each, the project will not appreciably increase the usage of the sites.



Photograph of North walk-in site at Beaverhead River Henneberry Fishing Access Site.



Photograph of South walk-in site at Henneberry FAS.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

The public will be notified by way of legal notices in three local newspapers, Montana Standard, Dillon Tribune, and Bozeman Daily Chronicle and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks webpage: <http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/publicnotices>

- 2. Duration of comment period, if any.**

The public comment period will extend for thirty days following the release of the EA. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm November 1, 2004. Comments may be e-mailed to tgreason@montana.edu or written comments may be sent to the following address: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Henneberry FAS EA, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.**

Based on an evaluation of impacts to the physical and human environment under MEPA, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts from the proposed action: therefore, an EIS is not necessary and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis.

2. **Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith
Independent Contractor
1027 9th Ave
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 495-9620

Allan Kuser
Fish Access Site Coordinator
MFWP
P O BOX 200701
Helena, MT 59601

Tom Greason
Manager
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

3. **List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Fisheries Division
Design & Construction Bureau
Lands Division

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism

Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)

PART VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?			X		yes	1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		yes	1b.
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a. The proposed project will not alter geologic substructure, and will minimally impact soil stability. Surface runoff will be minimal due to the small scope of the project. These effects can be mitigated by the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) during construction, which would limit the danger of creating unstable soils.

1b. Construction of the proposed parking areas will cause some erosion and run-off during the project, but will end after completion. These effects can be mitigated by the use of BMP's during construction, which would limit disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil.

1c. The proposed project will not destroy, cover, or modify any geologic or physical feature.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. Minor amounts of dust and vehicle emissions will be created during construction of the two parking areas.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X		yes	3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X			3b.
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		X				
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		X				
n. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 3a. The proposed project will have a minor to negligible effect on surface water quality due to discharge of sediments into the marshy areas in the floodplain during construction. These effects can be mitigated by the use of Best Management Practices during construction, which would limit impacts to surface water quality. Dissolved oxygen and temperature levels will not be notably impacted.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

- 3b. The proposed project will alter drainage patterns in a minor way around the parking areas but will not notably affect the adjacent land.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		yes	4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4e. The proposed project might cause a slight increase in foot traffic that can lead to the establishment and spread of noxious weeds. Signs at the parking lots educating the public about how to limit the spread of weeds will help alleviate this problem. Noxious weeds would be monitored by MFWP after completion and controlled in accordance with methods outlined in the Region 3 Weed Management Plan and the Beaverhead County Weed Board.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			X		yes	5e.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X		yes	5g.
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		X				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		X				
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5e. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's database indicated that one federally threatened species, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) and three sensitive species, *Perognathus parvus* (Great Basin Pocket Mouse), *Astragalus scaphoides* (Bitterroot Milkvetch), and *Buteo regalis* (Ferruginous Hawk) have been observed in the greater Henneberry FAS area. The Bald Eagle observation was most likely based on a sighting of a migratory bird, as no evidence exists of nesting pairs or prolonged use by the species. The small scope of this project will not result in a notable effect on any of these species. Adverse effects can be lessened by posting and enforcing regulations.

5g. The proposed project may increase site visitation and foot traffic that can cause stress to wildlife populations, but this area has a history of heavy use and any effect the project will have will be negligible. Posting regulations and enforcement activities will help minimize increased stress to wildlife populations.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a.
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. The proposed project will cause a small increase in noise levels during construction. There should not an increase in noise levels once construction is complete.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X		yes	9e.
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9e. The proposed project will have a positive effect in that traffic hazards will be decreased along the frontage road by encouraging people to park safely off the road in a designated parking area instead of along the shoulder of the recreation road, as is currently the case.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e.
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10e. The proposed project will be funded through fishing license revenue.

10f. Maintenance costs are projected to be \$1000 annually for both sites.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X		yes	11b.
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			X		yes	11c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11b. The proposed project will result in defined graveled parking areas giving the area a more developed appearance.

11c. The proposed project might attract more anglers and hunters to use the south parcel of Henneberry FAS, thereby dispersing the use over a wider area.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?			X			12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12a. Please see Attachment B for clearance letter from Montana State Historic Preservation Office.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Appendix A
23-1-110 MCA Project Qualification Checklist

Date: June 10, 2004

Person Reviewing: Linnaea Schroeer-Smith, independent contractor
Schroeer-Smith Scientific Services

Project Location: Henneberry Fishing Access Site (FAS) can be reached by traveling 14 miles south on I-15 from Dillon, then two miles south on the recreation/frontage road. The FAS consists of a north and south parcel, this proposed project would affect about 2 acres on the south parcel adjacent to the recreation road. The site is in Beaverhead County, Montana, Township 9S, Range 10W, Section 21.

Description of Proposed Work: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to provide parking lots for up to 8 vehicles each at two walk-in sites along the recreation road. Currently, these sites are unimproved and anglers and hunters are forced to park at steep angles along the road or park in dirt or mud down off the road. This creates traffic hazards and soil erosion during wet conditions.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check ☒ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

☐ A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?

Comments: *No new roads are proposed.*

☐ B. New building construction:

Comments: *No new building construction is proposed.*

☒ C. Any excavation of 20 cubic yards or greater?

Comments: *The construction of the two small parking areas might require cut and fill of more than 20 cubic yards.*

☒ D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 20% or more?

Comments: *While the sites of the proposed parking areas are already used for parking, construction of the lots will affect adjacent land.*

☐ E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station:

Comments: *No shoreline will be altered.*

☐ F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?

Comments: *None*

☒ G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?

Comments: *See attached letter.*

[] H. Any new above ground utility lines?

Comments: *None*

[] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?

Comments: *No campsites are planned.*

[] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?

Comments: *No, anglers and hunters already park in the proposed project area.*

Appendix B

Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Henneberry FAS Area

A search of the Montana Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal) indicates one known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant species in the proposed project site. The same search indicates four occurrences of sensitive species.

Please see Attachment C for detailed map.

Forest Service Threatened Species

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle) **Map label 3**

No additional data is available regarding this element occurrence

Forest Service Sensitive Species

Forest Service sensitive species are species for which the Regional Forester has determined there is a concern for population viability range-wide or in the region. The following sensitive species are located in the greater Henneberry FAS area.

Astragalus scaphoides (Bitterroot milkvetch). **Map label 4**

Observation date: June 22, 2003.

EO data: 20 individuals counted in an incomplete survey, probably many more plants.

Directions: Take Dalys exit off I-15 and proceed south on frontage road to Henneberry FAS.

Continue west to old highway. Go north ¼ mile. Take 2-track west 1.1 miles to site.

General description: Observed on dry, open lower slopes that are heavily grazed. Associated species include *Artemesia tripartata*, *Pseudoroegneria spicata*, *Festuca idahoensis*, *Artemesia frigida*, *Astragalus adsurgens*, and *Stipa comata*.

Astragalus scaphoides (Bitterroot Milkvetch) **Map label 1**

Observation date: June 20, 1994.

EO data: Approximately 50 plants observed, fruit present.

Directions: First drainage of Beaverhead River south of Pipe Organ Creek, west of the recreation road, Hwy 91, and Beaverhead River.

General description: Dry, open lower slope, fine soil. Associated species include *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, *Elymus spicatus*, *Artemesia tridentate*, *Opuntia polyacantha*, *Melilotus officinale*, and *Astragalus atropubescens*.

Buteo regalis (Ferruginous Hawk) **Map label 5**

Observation date: May 1997.

EO data: Breeding population of 100-200 pairs. The boundaries for this occurrence encompass all reported nest observations and additional suitable and contiguous habitat located within the general area.

Directions: A large area centered on Clark Canyon Reservoir, including the Western Centennial, Horse Prairie, Sage Creek and Sweetwater Creek valleys and the Argenta bench.

General description: Short grass prairies with occasional trees and brushy draws.

Perognathus parvus (Great Basin Pocket Mouse) **Map label 2**

Observation date: June 29 1961.

EO data: 1 female collected.

Directions: 10 miles southwest of Dillon.

General Description: Sagebrush. Also present: *Peromyscus maniculatus*, and *Tamias minimus*.

Information courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
- B. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office
- C. Map of Element Occurrences of Montana Species of Concern

09/03 sed